

resisted. Suddenly the woman tossed two ten-dollar bills into the car. They had thought I was a taxi. Finding themselves instead with a “round-eye” driver had been the ultimate shock. Then there was also the small question of loss of face. What to do?

With some difficulty, I managed to return the twenty dollars, and to make it clear that I was in no way angry. Five days later we must have bowed ceremoniously to each other close on a hundred times whenever we met. Face and feelings were restored. They even invited me for dinner at a Japanese restaurant in the tourist complex, one of those excruciating experiences when you spend an hour and a half with smiles, nods, oohs, and aahs as the only medium of communication. But I still think they had a good honeymoon.—TORBEN B. LARSEN, 5 Wilson Compound, 2811 Park Avenue, 1300 Pasay City, Metro Manila, The Philippines.  
(E-mail: Torbenlarsen@compuserve.com)

### ***Arhopalus rusticus* (L.) (Col.: Cerambycidae) in Somerset**

On examining his moth trap at Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset (VC6) on 13 August 2000, my son Andrew discovered a large beetle which he thought may be of interest. Between us and our rather limited literature on the subject we strongly suspected it to be *Arhopalus rusticus*. The specimen was sent to my son David at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff where he confirmed the identification.

In his excellent *Beetles of Somerset*, Andrew Duff (1993), lists only one record – from Crewkerne (VC5) August 1988, given on page 181.—BRIAN E. SLADE, 40 Church House Road, Berrow, Somerset TA8 2NQ.

### ***Sitaris muralis* (Forst.) (Col.: Meloidae): first modern record for Kent and the London area**

A specimen of this highly distinctive and now very scarce beetle – currently placed in our list under the generic name of *Apalus* (see below) – was noted by my friend Keith C. Lewis in his garden at Welling, in north-west Kent and not far from here, on 3 June 2000. It was on a leaf of mallow, and he proposed to photograph it and then release it. Most unluckily, however, this admirable intention was thwarted, for on returning to the spot with a receptacle he found that the beetle had vanished, and a thorough search proved fruitless. It might be suspected that Mr Lewis was mistaken over the insect's identity, but I am satisfied that that is not the case. It is too unlike anything else, and he had a perfectly clear view of it from two-feet away or less. I believe the record, improbable as it is, must stand. Also, because of the habits of *Sitaris*, a chance introduction from elsewhere seems unlikely.

Nor is there any lack of suitable bee hosts in the vicinity. Not far off, behind a thick mass of ivy, is an old nest-box now occupied by a flourishing colony

of *Bombus lucorum* – a possible breeding-site as the beetle has been recorded from a nest of *B. terrestris*. Alternatively the specimen could perhaps have been a stray from a very suitable-looking flowery site in nearby Danson Park where Mr Lewis has observed the bee *Anthophora acervorum*; this genus is commonly cited as the principal host of *S. muralis*. Naturally he kept a close watch for the rest of the summer and autumn, but without result. The more usual months for the beetle are August and September; June records appear to be much fewer.

The species has been given “Endangered” status (Shirt, D. B., 1987. *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*), with no record since 1969 (Wheatley, Oxford). Its sustained occurrence in the Oxford district from 1906 to the mid-1940s is well known. The vague old record “Kent” is due to J. F. Stephens; and there are others for London.

A question arises as to the correct generic name of this insect. Modern British works use *Apalus* F. instead of the later *Sitaris* Latr., which has been in use for a very long time. The question, however, is one not of priority but of taxonomy. Here I follow Kaszab in Freude Harde and Lohse, 1969. He places under *Alpus* two species with elytra entire, which appear to represent a genus distinct from *Sitaris*.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

### ***Lymexylon navale* L. (Col.:Lymexylidae) in East Suffolk**

Whilst inspecting the underside of freshly cut, sappy oak planks in the woodyard at Shrubland Park, Coddendam ( grid reference TM 1252) on 19 July 2000 with my friend Nigel Cuming, I was surprised to find a female *Lymexylon navale*. We subsequently found the beetle in some numbers nearby, flying in hot sunshine to fresh, longitudinally cut, oak trunk segments. The park has been worked intensively for saproxylic beetles since 1970 but *Lymexylon* has never been detected up until now. The oak trunks which were attracting *Lymexylon* had recently been brought to the yard from a wood distributor in nearby Needham Market. No sign of the beetles' development site could be detected in the woodyard but, given the number of specimens observed, the beetles were obviously emerging somewhere fairly close by.

This appears to be only the second record of this *Red Data Book* category 2 (Vulnerable) species for the county and the first from a site in which it could naturally occur, the beetle having been added to the Suffolk list by E. A. Elliott ( 1929. The Coleoptera of Suffolk. Second Supplement. *Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc.* 1 : 121-126) on the basis of a sketch (*teste* Claude Morley) drawn by a Major Cooper, of larvae which the latter had found in ships' timbers in a yard at Walberswick on the River Blythe in October, 1924. I thank Lord de Saumarez for allowing me to record on the Shrubland Estate.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.